Word List
Some words in the Word List have multiple definitions. The definitions here relate to how the word is used in Preparing for the Oath.


A
Act: a law that is officially accepted by the government, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act
Activist/Activists: someone who works for social or political change
Adopt/Adopted: to accept an idea, plan, or way of doing something; adopted is the past tense form of adopt
Advise/Advises: to recommend or suggest; to offer your opinion to someone
Allied: countries that are in agreement
Ally/Allies: a country that joins another country to fight a war
Amendment/Amendments: a change or addition to the U.S. Constitution
Anthem: an official song of a group of people or nation
Arms: weapons, such as guns
Assemble/Assembly: to come together in one place; assembly is the noun form of assemble

B
Battle: a fight during a war
Battlegrounds: places where people fight during a war

The Civil War battleground of Chattanooga, Tennessee.
Bill/bills: a proposed plan for a law that the government reviews
Bombed: attacked a place with bombs; bombed is the past tense form of bomb
Breaks the law/breaks laws: to not follow the law. *When someone steals, they break the law.*

C
Cabinet: a group of government leaders who advise the president
Campaign: a plan to win an election
Candidate/Candidates: a person who works to be elected to a political position
Capitalism: an economic system where most things are privately owned
Capitalist: a person, group, or nation that believes in or practices capitalism
Captured: got control of something; captured is the past tense form of capture
Case: a question or an argument that is decided in the court system
Celebrate: to do something special because of a certain day or event
Census: a formal count of the population in a city, county, state, or country
Citizen/Citizens: a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country
Civic Group: an organized group of people that does things to help the community
Civilian: anyone who is not a member of the military or police
Colonists: people who lived in one of the original 13 British colonies before the United States became independent in 1776
Colonial: relating to a country or geographic area controlled by another country
Colony/Colonies: a country or geographic area controlled by another country
Commander in chief: the U.S. president’s role as the official leader of the military
Commemorates: to remember someone or something by a special action, ceremony, or object

The courtroom is where the judge and jury listen to a case.
Communist/Communists/Communism: a political and economic system in which the government controls all the production of goods and owns most of the property

Constitutional: when something is allowed because it is in the U.S. Constitution. The freedom to give your opinion is constitutional

Courtroom: the place where legal cases are reviewed

Create/Creat/Created: to make something new; created is the past tense form of create

D

Debate/Debates: to discuss an issue in order to make a decision

Declare war: to formally announce that there will be a war

Defend: to protect someone or something from being attacked

Delegates: someone who speaks for another person or group of people, often at a meeting or as part of a political office

Demanded: to strongly request or order; demanded is the past tense form of demand

Democracy: a political system where the government is elected by the people

Diplomat: someone who officially represents his/her government in a foreign country

District/Districts: an official area of a state whose citizens elect a Representative to the House of Representatives

Diverse: groups of people or things that are different from each other

Doubled: to increase in size by two. 5 miles doubled is 10 miles; 2 miles doubled is 4 miles.

Draft: Selective Service, a system that requires people to join the military

Duty: responsibility or obligation

E

Economic Opportunity: the chance to make more money, usually in business

Election/Elections: an event when people choose a member of government by voting
Enforce/Enforces: to make people follow laws
Enslaved: to force a person to become a slave; enslaved is the past tense form of enslave
Equal: to be the same
Equality: a situation where everyone has the same rights
Expand/Expanded: to grow or become larger; expanded is the past tense form of expand
Exploded: to blow up or make a loud noise; exploded is the past tense form of explode

F
Federal: part of the central U.S. government, not state or local governments
Federal Office: an elected position in the U.S. government
Fireworks: explosions that produce colorful lights in the sky
Forced: to make someone do something, even if they do not want to
Founded: started a town or institution
Freed: to be set free; to be allowed to live without control from others. *Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves.*

G
General: a person with a high rank in the Army, Air Force, or Marines

H
Honors/Honor: to publicly show that someone is respected

I
Illegal: not allowed by the law
Independent/Independence: free; not controlled by another person or country
Inventor/Invented: someone who creates something for the first time; invented is the past tense form of invent; inventor is the noun form of invent

J
Jury/Juries: a group of people who listen to a case in court and decide if someone is guilty or innocent
Justice/Justices: 1. a judge in the U.S. Supreme Court; 2. fairness under the law

L
Legislatures: members of the branch of government that makes laws
Liberty: freedom
Loyal/Loyalty: demonstrating support for the same government or set of beliefs

M
Marches: organized walks by large groups of people to support an issue or to protest something
Mental Disabilities: conditions of the mind that make it difficult for someone to do things most people are able to do
Military: the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard)
Minimum: smallest level or amount possible

N
National Defense: military protection of the country and its citizens
Nominates: to officially recommend a specific person to work in a political office
Nonviolent: with no use of violence
O
Obey: to do what the law says you must do
Opinion/Opinions: what someone thinks about an issue
Organize/Organized: to plan or arrange; organized is the past tense form of organize
Override: to change an official decision

P
Parades: public celebrations with bands and decorated vehicles moving down the street
Peaceful/Peacefully: with no violence
Petition: to formally ask the government to do something
Physical Disabilities: conditions of the body that make it difficult for someone to do things most people are able to do
Picnics: meals people eat in an outdoor area
Political Liberty: the right to participate in the government
Poll Taxes: money that some people had to pay to vote in an election
Postmaster General: the person in charge of the United States Postal Service
Powerful: having a lot of power or control
Press: newspapers, magazines, television, and Internet websites
Promise: to say you will definitely do something
Protect/protects/protected: to keep something or someone safe; protected is the past tense form of protect
Protest/Protests/Protested: to say or show that you disagree with something; protested is the past tense form of protest
Pursuit of Happiness: seeking a happy life
Racial Discrimination: treating someone unfairly because of their race or color of their skin
Register: to put a name or other information on an official list
Represent/Represents/Represented/Representation: to make decisions for another person or group of people; represented is the past tense form of represent
Representatives: elected members of a government group in the United States, such as in Congress
Requirements: something that must be done because of a law or rule
Responsibility/Responsibilities: a duty or task that you are required or expected to do
Right/Rights: something you are morally or legally allowed to do
Role: the responsibilities someone has as part of a job
Run for Office: to seek a political position, such as in Congress

Segregation: to make people live, work, and study separately because of their race, religion, or ethnicity
Self-Government: a government where the people make the laws
Separate/Separating/Separated: to keep something or someone apart; separated is the past tense form of separate
Serve/Served: to work for a certain period of time, usually in political office or in the military; served is the past tense form of serve. She served as a congresswoman for two years.
Settler/Settlers: a person or group of people who move to a new country or region where few people have been before
Signs/Signed/Signature: to write your name on a document to show that you approve; signed is the past tense form of sign; signature is the noun form of sign
Slaves/Slavery: people that are owned by other people and are forced to work without pay
Social Security: a U.S. government program into which workers must pay money to provide benefits for certain retired workers and their families, certain disabled workers and their families, and certain family members of deceased workers.

Speech/Speeches: an expression of ideas and opinions that is made by someone who is speaking in front of a group of people.

Statue: an object that looks like a person or animal, and is made of stone, metal, or other material.

Stock Market: a financial system where people buy and trade shares or parts of companies.

Sworn in: when an individual publicly promises to be loyal to a country or an important job; sworn in is the past tense form of swear in.

Symbol: something that is used to represent an idea or organization.

T

Term/Terms: the period of time someone serves in a political office.

Terrorism: the use of violence to achieve political goals.

Terrorist/Terrorists: someone who uses violence to achieve political goals.

Tie: to have the same number of votes on each side.

Treated/Treatment: to behave towards someone in a particular way; treated is the past tense form of treat; treatment is the noun form of treat. *They treated the slaves badly.*

Treaties: formal written agreements between two or more countries.

Trial: a process in court to decide if someone is innocent or guilty of a crime.

Tribe/Tribes: a group of people who have the same beliefs, customs, or language.

U

Unconstitutional: not allowed by the U.S. Constitution.

Unfair/Unfairly: to not treat people equally.
W
Wages: money earned for a job

Z
Zoning: laws that say that land can only be used for a certain purpose, like building houses